

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending prior amending the application. The Examiner rejects claims 1-21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ni (U.S. Patent No. 6,680,910) in view of Hinchley (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,250). Applicants amend claim 1, 4, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, and 21, cancel claims 3, 7, 12, 16, 17, and 20, and add claims 22-27. Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Examiner Interview

The Applicant thanks Examiners Dalencourt and Halim for granting and conducting an Applicant initiated interview. During the interview, the Examiners and Applicants agreed that claims 7 and 17 would be novel and not obvious over the prior art of record if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiners further indicated that claims 1, 10, and 18 would also be novel and not obvious over the prior art of record if amended to include limitations similar to those presented in claims 7 and 17.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Applicant respectfully submits this amendment as a supplement to a previous Office Action response, filed on 3/2/2006, which was fully responsive to the Examiner's present rejections.

Applicants amend claim 6 to include the language of dependent claim 7, and amend claim 14 to include the language of dependent claim 17 and intervening dependent claim 16. Applicants further amend claims 1, 10, and 18 to include limitations similar to those that the Examiners indicated as novel and not obvious over the prior art of record. Since the Examiners and Applicants are in substantial agreement that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest claims 1, 6, 10, 14, and 18 as amended, Applicants respectfully request the present rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed to issue.

New Claims

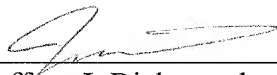
Applicants add claims 22-27. Claims 22 and 23 depend from independent claim 1, claim 24 depends from independent claim 6, claim 25 depends from independent claim 10, claim 26 depends from independent claim 14, and 27 depends from independent claim 18. Support for these newly added claims is found in Figure 4 and corresponding sections of the specification as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims after amending the application is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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